

*As
played by the
world renowned pianist
Percy Grainger*

R. Howard

Juba

(Dance)

*From the Suite
"In the Bottoms"*

*by
for the Piano
R. Nathaniel Dett*



Price 60¢
NET SCHEDULE

CHICAGO

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IN THE BOTTOMS.

Characteristic Suite.

"More an expression than a painting."


Beethoven.

"In the Bottoms" is a Suite of five numbers giving pictures of moods or scenes peculiar to Negro life in the river bottoms of the Southern sections of North America. It is similar in its expression, and in a way a continuation of the sentiments already set forth in the "Magnolia" Suite, but suggests ideas incidental to life in a more particular geographic territory. Neither Suite, like Dvorak's famous "New World Symphony" is dependent for its effect upon the introduction of folk-songs, either in their natural, or in a highly developed form. As it is quite possible to describe the traits, habits and customs of a people without using the vernacular, so is it similarly possible to musically portray racial peculiarities without the use of national tunes or folk-songs. "In the Bottoms", then, belongs to that class of music known as "Program music" or "music with a poetic basis." The source of the "program" or "poetic basis" has already been referred to, and the following notes are appended to show that its relation to the music is intimate.

No. 1. Prelude—is nightfall; the heavy chords represent the heavy shadows, and the open fifths, the peculiar hollow effect of the stillness; the syncopated melody which occurs, is the "tumbling" of a banjo, which music is, however, only incidental to the gloom.

No. 2. His Song—The psychological phenomenon is historic, that the moods of suppressed people have oftenest found their most touching expression in song. An aged Negro will sometimes sit for hours in the quiet of an evening, humming an improvised air, whose wierd melody seems to strangely satisfy a nameless yearning of the heart.

No. 3. Honey—Literally, "Honey" is a colloquialism—the familiar term of endearment (South) It may mean much, little, everything or nothing; the intimation here, is one of coquetry. It is after a poem, "A Negro Love Song" by Paul Laurence Dunbar.

No. 4. The rhythmic figure, —which forms the theme of this Barcarolle is in reality, the rhythmic motif of the whole Suite; it is of most frequent occurrence in the music of the ante-bellum folk-dances, and its marked individuality has caused it to be much misused for purposes of caricature. Here it paints the pleasure of a sunshiny morning on the Father of Waters.

No. 5. Dance—This is probably the most characteristic number of the Suite, as it portrays more of the social life of the people. "Juba" is the stamping on the ground with the foot and following it with two staccato pats of the hands in two-four time. At least one-third of the dancers keep time in this way, while the others dance. Sometimes all will combine together in order to urge on a solo dancer to more frantic (and at the same time more fantastic) endeavors. The orchestra usually consists of a single "fiddler," perched high on a box or table; who, forgetful of self in the rather hilarious excitement of the hour, does the impossible in the way of double stopping and bowing.

***A word of warning cannot be suppressed in regard to the tempo of the "Dance." Do not take it *too fast!* Much of the dancing in the bottoms is done with a grace and finish that a *Presto* tempo never could suggest.

***Metronome marks, which should be carefully observed, are given for all of the movements. The Prelude should open and close with an air of mystery, and most of its serenade part be kept subdued as if sounding from afar. Let the major-key portion of His Song have a decidedly hopeful tone as it has prophetic significance. Flirt all you please with Honey; let your love of the beautiful in Nature permeate the Barcarolle, but don't become too boisterous in the dance; remember always that program music is at its best when most in accord with those sentiments uttered by the great Beethoven in regard to his own "Pastoral Symphony" when he said,—*"more an expression than a painting."*

R. Nathaniel Dett.

"JUBA"
(DANCE)

3

Non Troppo Allegro ♩ = 120.-144

R. NATHANIEL DETT.

The musical score is written for piano. It consists of four systems of music. The first system begins with a melody in the right hand, marked with fingerings 5, 3, 2, 1. The dynamics are marked *mf* and *non legato*. The bass line consists of eighth notes. The second and third systems continue the melody and bass line. The fourth system ends with a forte (*f*) marking. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4.

The musical score is written for piano and consists of five systems of staves. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

System 1: The first system begins with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble staff has a *sf* (sforzando) marking and the word *marcato*. The bass staff has a *sf* marking and the word *simile*. There are triplets in both staves.

System 2: The second system continues the piece. The treble staff has a *sf* marking. The bass staff has a *sf* marking. There are asterisks in the bass staff.

System 3: The third system features a *sf* marking in the treble staff. The bass staff has a *poco dim-in-u-en-do* marking. There are first and second endings indicated by brackets and numbers 1 and 2.

System 4: The fourth system continues the piece. The treble staff has a *sf* marking. The bass staff has a *mf* marking.

System 5: The fifth system continues the piece. The treble staff has a *sf* marking. The bass staff has a *mf* marking.

This page contains five systems of musical notation for piano. The notation is written in bass clef for the first four systems and grand staff (treble and bass clef) for the fifth system. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The first system begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *mp* and *p*. The page is numbered "5" in the top right corner.



